

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 208

By Matheny

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Austin Anderson on receiving the 2009 Tennessee Conservation Farmer of the Year Award.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who through their extraordinary efforts have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Austin Anderson of Coffee County, who recently received the 2009 Tennessee Conservation Farmer of the Year Award from the Tennessee Association of Conservation Districts (TACD); and

WHEREAS, Mr. Anderson was presented with this prestigious award at the recent sixty-fifth annual TACD Convention in Johnson City; and

WHEREAS, Austin Anderson was born in Coffee County to Frelan and Beatrice Anderson; one of their five children, he was raised on his family's farm, learning valuable farming lessons through first-hand experience and by helping his father; and

WHEREAS, he was joined in holy matrimony with Wilma Floyd, and this blessed union has produced four children, Dan, Chris, Jeff, and Shelby; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Anderson has been a conservation farmer for sixty years, effectively utilizing responsible conservation practices such as crop rotation, no-till farming, conservation buffers, rotational fencing, stream crossings, critical area planting, and pest and nutrient management; and

WHEREAS, a highly respected farmer in his community, Mr. Anderson operates an agricultural operation that involves farms in the Coffee County communities of Fredonia, Maple Springs, Beech Grove, and Goosepond; and

WHEREAS, Austin Anderson and his family raise 200 registered polled Hereford beef cattle and manage a commercial beef herd; Mr. Anderson's conservation crop rotation consists of approximately 250 acres of corn, 100 acres of wheat, and 600 acres of soybeans, all of which he plants using conservation tillage or no-tilling methods; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his conservational planting techniques, Mr. Anderson has installed more than 350,000 feet of tile drainage to alleviate surface and subsurface drainage problems on his farm and to promote harvest efficiency and allow for optimum yields from his crops; and

WHEREAS, the Andersons also use conservation buffers such as grassed waterways in concentrated flow areas of the highly erodible cropland, as well as filter strips set up along the edges of streams, wetlands, and woodlands to restrict the movement of sediment and nutrients into them; and

WHEREAS, a dedicated conservationist in all his endeavors, Austin Anderson is just as environmentally responsible in his conservation farming techniques regarding his cattle; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Anderson's beef cattle, which live on nearly 2,250 acres of owned and leased pasture and hayland, graze primarily on cool-season grasses and legumes, such as fescue and white clover in the pastures, with the addition of orchard grass, timothy, and red clover in the haylands; and

WHEREAS, leaders in low-input grass production, the Andersons rotate and balance their cattle herd across their vast acreage, instead of concentrating large numbers on a few acres; they also administer soil tests to balance lime and fertilizer needs; and

WHEREAS, concerning his beef operation, Austin Anderson has been actively pursuing the use of alternative livestock watering systems, rather than relying solely on local shallow ponds, wetlands, and streams; these alternatives are frost proof, automatic watering facilities that can be installed into a new or established fence line to aid in cross-fencing and in the rotation of some pastures; and

WHEREAS, while installing this alternative system, the Andersons are also fencing to keep cattle out of the unreliable water sources and intermittent streams; and

WHEREAS, the Anderson farm also utilizes an innovative twenty-foot-wide stream crossing, which they built across a low-water and mud-laden stream to enable cattle, trucks, tractors, and equipment to successfully pass from field to field; this crossing allows for year-round traffic flow over the stream without damaging equipment or filling the stream with excess sediment; and

WHEREAS, as a result of Austin Anderson's pioneering conservation techniques, his farm became a major attraction for an alternative livestock watering systems field day in August of 2000, during which locals visited three farms in the area; and

WHEREAS, at the Anderson farm, visitors also observed the Andersons' newly constructed one-acre pond, built to NRCS specifications, which used gravity to feed pond water into a lower tank while keeping the cattle out of the pond; and

WHEREAS, the Andersons have been accepted into the Conservation Security Program, in which they plan to continue practicing their many conservation efforts, thus paving the way for others to do the same; and

WHEREAS, Austin Anderson is widely respected for his dedication to responsible farming as he endeavors to conserve natural resources while overseeing a profitable agricultural operation; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his many personal conservation practices, Mr. Anderson is actively involved with organizations that strive to make improvements within the agricultural sphere; and

WHEREAS, he has served on the Coffee County Soil Conservation District Board of Supervisors for forty-six years, the Tennessee Farm Bureau Board of Directors for more than twenty years, the Coffee County Farm Bureau Board, and the Tennessee Livestock Producers, Inc. Board of Directors for more than twenty years; he is a leader in the Coffee County 4-H program; and

WHEREAS, a dedicated member of his community both in and beyond the field of agriculture, Mr. Anderson has given his time and many talents to the Coffee County Planning Commission, the Coffee County Coordinating Urban Growth Committee, and the People's Bank and Trust Board; and

WHEREAS, he stood as the Tennessee Representative for the Lancaster/Sunbelt Expo Southeastern Farmer of the Year Award and was included in the Hall of Honor; and

WHEREAS, no strangers to accolades, Mr. Anderson and his family were honored by being featured on the cover of *The Progressive Farmer* magazine as model families who responsibly conduct estate planning; and

WHEREAS, thanks to the work of men such as Austin Anderson, Tennessee's farms enjoy a reputation for exceptional quality, productivity, and responsible stewardship of natural resources, and for his many revolutionary contributions to this reputation, Austin Anderson should be applauded; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Austin Anderson on receiving the 2009 Tennessee Conservation Farmer of the Year Award from the Tennessee Association of Conservation Districts, thank him for his meritorious service to the agricultural community of the State of Tennessee, and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.